

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 241325Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4932

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

S E C R E T AMMAN 4215

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, TC

SUBJECT: KING'S VISIT TO ABU DHABI

REF: STATE 143373

1. SAW PRIME MINISTER RIFAI THIS MORNING FOR A FEW
MINUTES TO DISCUSS TRIP TO GULF.

2. HE THANKED US FOR MESSAGE (REFTEL) AND SAID HE
HAD TALKED WITH SUWAYDI ABOUT IT. SUWAYDI'S APPROACH
IS TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY EITHER
AT NEW YORK OR IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS VISIT TO
UNGA THIS AUTUMN. SUWAYDI HOPES VERY MUCH THIS CAN
BE WORKED OUT.

3. TOLD RIFAI THAT I THOUGHT IT BEST TO END HAVING
AMMAN BE INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ABU DHABI AND WASHINGTON.
RIFAI SAID THAT SUWAYDI HAD SEEMED RELUCTANT TO
TALK DIRECTLY WITH US ABOUT, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES
AGREED WITH ME THAT IT WAS NOW BEST TO HANDLE THE QUESTION THAT
WAY. HE URGED THAT AMBASSADOR STERNER BE INSTRUCTED TO TALK
WITH SUWAYDI ON THE BASIS OF RIFAI'S DISCUSSIONS
WITH SUWAYDI DURING KING'S TRIP. HE THOUGHT SUWAYDI
WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO OUR REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS
WITH JORDANIANS AND SEEKING OUT HIS VIEWS DIRECTLY.
RIFAI SAID USING TRIP TO UN WOULD AVOID ANY PROBLEM

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OF SPECIFIC INVITATION FOR A SPECIAL VISIT BY

SUWAYDI.

4. KING RAISED IN ABU DHABI QUESTION OF POSSIBLE IRAQI MOVES TO CREATE A NEW TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GULF ON A JOINT MILITARY FORCE TO BE USED IN THE AREA. RIFAI INDICATED THAT IN BAHRAIN THEY WERE COMPLETELY AT SEA WITH REGARD TO THE JOINT FORCE, WHILE IN ABU DHABI THE FEELING WAS IRAQ HAD USE OF THE JOINT FORCE IN MIND ONLY TO DEFEND AGAINST "EXTERNAL" THREATS IN THE AREA. IN KUWAIT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS SOME FEELING THE FORCE WOULD ALSO HAVE A ROLE SHOULD INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ANY OF THE GULF STATES GET OUT OF HAND. IN ALL THREE PLACES, RIFAI SAID THAT JORDANIANS HAD SUCCESSFULLY POISONED THE WELL AGAINST SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS POINT OUT THE CAPACITY OF THE FORCE FOR INTERFERENCE AND THE FUTILITY OF THINKING THE FORCE COULD BE USED AGAINST ONE OF THE LARGE POWERS.

5. FINALLY, THE KUWAITIS WERE TOLD BY THE IRAQIS THAT IT WOULD BE A NAVAL FORCE AND THE JORDANIANS DROVE HOME THAT OBVIOUSLY ALL IRAQ HAD IN MIND WAS AN EXCLUSIVELY IRAQI NAVAL OPERATION. THEY POINTED OUT TO THE KUWAITIS WHAT A DANGER SUCH WOULD BE TO THEM WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF KUWAITI ISLANDS AT THE HEAD OF THE GULF REMAINED UNRESOLVED BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT.

6. IN ABU DHABI, KING WAS TOLD THAT THE FINANCIAL SITUATION IS TIGHT BUT THAT ABU DHABI WOULD MATCH WHATEVER QATAR IS GOING TO PAY FOR THE NEW AMMAN AIRPORT. IN ADDITION, THE JORDANIAN MILITARY MISSION IN PLACE WILL BE WORKING SHORTLY TO REVIEW THE TOTAL DEFENSE SETUP WITH THE SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS. CHIEF OF THE JORDANIAN GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT ABU DHABI ON JUNE 29 AND SHEIKH ZAYED HAD AGREED TO PUT A JORDANIAN IN CHARGE OF THE REVISED EMIRATE FORCE FOLLOWING THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY STUDY NOW IN PREPARATION.

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PICKERING

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